

## **May 2011 Overview**

### **Inyo Backcountry Trail Crew**

#### **Agnes Vianzon: Supervisor**

Off we go. After a few days of final preparation at the Los Padres Center, we leave the vehicles and phones behind. We loaded our packs on our backs to begin our season in the Los Padres National Forest, in the San Rafael Wilderness. 8 miles down the 'there's nothing sweet about it' Sweet Water Trail to our first backcountry home at the South Fork Station Camp.

There we were graciously welcomed by Lilia Otero (Klamath '07) our wonderful cook for this stint. With the help of Kiva Vigil, Lilia was nice enough to hike in early and set up most of our camp (You raised her well, Phil). We were able to unload, get settled, have a fabulous meal and sit down to rest our weary feet by the first camp fire of the season.

We were also welcomed by tons of poison oak, ticks, rattlesnakes, and some hot and cold weather but there is much excitement and positivity blanketing our crew. We are off to a great start of our adventure with a new family of brothers and sisters and begin to define our place in the tradition of the backcountry program.

Three members of the crew celebrated birthdays this month. Happy Birthday to Jesse Reyes, Mary Hunter McDaniel, and Gabriel Nuno!!!

#### **Work**

Mark Bailey (Klamath '94) has joined us to start us off in the right direction and teach us about the trail corridor and how to properly brush the trail to standard. He helped us through our first week, dropping a few trees along the way along with many words of trail wisdom.

Our work continued on the White Ledge and Sisquoc River trails with extensive brushing and constructing creek crossings. We also learned the basics through Rock Work 101 and completed our first rock projects. All this combined with lots of tread work, the trail between South Fork and White Ledge is now accessible via hiker or stock traffic. Before we finish up in the Los Padres, we hope to open the trail to Mansfield as well as down river toward Sycamore Camp.

We're also learning and getting lots of time in on the cross cut saws, both on the trail and cutting in camp for our daily firewood.

#### **Curriculum**

Our classes are in full swing. We started off learning First Aid/CPR by our USFS Los Padres sponsor, David Weaver. We also made pop can stoves together. We have started our conversations on community – ground rules, do's and don'ts, sobriety, conflict resolution and learned about unregulated

resources with Tragedy of the Commons. David Weaver and Rik Christensen taught us about going light while backpacking and the History of the Sisquoc River. We have also started our Mission Statement and have conducted 10 minute interviews on each other. Karlson Hubbard joined us to end off the month and read us In a Poor Country, by Jack London.

### **Weekend Adventures**

We explored our new home of the Los Padres visiting, Lonnie Davis, Skunk Camp, Sisquoc Falls, Rattlesnake Falls, Heath Camp, Alcove Falls, and Manzana Narrows. Some adventurous members headed out on a Memorial Day Weekend 30 mile loop, taking them up San Rafael Mountain and McKinley Mountain.

### **We appreciate you**

Much thanks to our Los Padres sponsors for all their support this month, Joe Duran and David Weaver. Thanks to Frank Salituri, Kiva Vigil, and all the good folks at the Los Padres Center for your help and hospitality. Thank you Lilia for the best food all month long. You will be missed greatly. Thank you Mark Bailey, you taught us well and gave us a great start.

### **Corpmembers Words of Wisdom:**

I feel honored to be a part of the Inyo Crew. Everyone is diverse and unique and I feel that we will grow extremely close as the season progresses. Yes, there will be times where we will stare in the face of adversity; however, we can only grow stronger from this experience. I feel that I have found a second family already. Everyone is extremely respectful which makes it easier to cope with not being home. This is my home now. And in a month's time we will be residing in the Inyo. We will learn more about each other, as well as of ourselves. We will stand determined to complete this season in good health and great spirits. We will learn to accept people's shortcomings. We will learn to lift the spirits of those who are down in the dirt. We will learn to work as a team. We will grow stronger through our everyday routines. We will learn to be patient with one another, and also with our work. We learn that even through sobriety, we can still have fun. We will learn humility, and humbleness. We will come together as brothers and sisters. We will!!! Inyo 2011!!

-Gabriel Nuno, Crew Journal

Friday 13, 2011

The second work week has been completed. It feels like we have been here forever. It feels like orientation was months ago. My beard is almost fully grown. Then again it only takes a week or two for my beard to cover my face. Which reminds me, we have at least a dozen weeks for us to enjoy the beauty and the unknown of the backcountry wilderness. Let's live it to the fullest. Let's live it with no

regrets. Let's live it slow and eternal (let the memories last forever) for the backcountry comes and goes like a shooting star gleams the clear night sky. Ha, if that even makes sense. Ok, what I am trying to say is that the backcountry goes by fast so let's enjoy it while we can. =) Let's take this time to get to know each other well. Take this time to get to know ourselves. Let's help each other out when times are good. Let's work hard!!! Let's encourage one another. Let's put smiles on our faces. Let's continue having the positive attitude we possess. Let's not forget we are a team. Let's accomplish our challenge and finish as a team. Backcountry Trails Crew. Inyo 2011.

-Jesse Reyes, Crew Journal